

Facebook Note: From the Floor...

As I write this note, I'm sitting on the floor of the House of Representatives listening to the "State of the Union" address.

It is a historical occasion to have President Obama addressing the nation. Though I disagree with much of his philosophy, he has broken some barriers in an unprecedented way. Here are some of my thoughts and observations:

Barack Obama gives a good speech, but it is distressingly short of specifics. He makes many references to bills yet to be introduced, and the price tags are not disclosed.

He is sounding a more positive note than in recent days, obviously aware that his gloom and doom comments were tanking the stock market and sapping consumer confidence.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (you may remember the unfortunately remarks made by Senator Jim Bunning of Kentucky) looked healthy as she came down the aisle and received a round of applause.

I don't understand the fascination and obsession of those who sit for hours to have a seat by the aisle so they can briefly shake the President's hand when he enters the chamber.

When the President says he's glad the so-called stimulus package passed, Republicans—including me—sat on our hands while Democrats clapped wildly. That was one of the starkest political contrasts of the evening.

It is reassuring to see the words "In God We Trust" engraved over the Speaker's chair during the speech. Sometimes I'm sure all our plans and efforts must seem like sound and fury to the Almighty, but He remains firmly in control.

The President's veiled reference to insisting a cap-and-trade energy policy is extremely troubling. That is nothing more than a hidden tax on the energy bills that hard-working families will have to struggle to pay. What's even worse, the cost of cap-and-trade is foolishly self-imposed.

The biggest cheer by Republicans, as opposed to Democrats, was when the President said we shouldn't burden our children with debt. There was a healthy dose of skepticism mixed in, however, with memories still fresh on the recent passage of the bloated "stimulus" bill.

The longest applause of night by both sides of the aisle together was, as it should have been, for the men and women in uniform who so sacrificially serve our country.

These are some of my impressions as this is happening. I hope you find them interesting.